



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending July 15, 2007

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Excellent week for Field Work:** Many areas across the state are in a desperate need of some good rain. Crops are beginning to show signs of heat distress, and livestock is beginning to suffer as well. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spraying herbicides, baling straw, rotating pastures, repairing equipment, hauling water for livestock, making hay, and harvesting barley and winter wheat.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 15, 2007**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
37	43	19	1

**Crops:** Nineteen percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 5 percentage points higher than the 5-year average, and 14 points higher than this time last year. Corn height is now 59 inches, which is 10 inches taller than this time last year and 4 inches shorter than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 56 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-eight percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Ninety-five percent of the emerged oats have now reached the heading stage. This is right in line with the estimates from this time last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of the headed oat crop has turned yellow. This is 25 percentage points higher than this time last year and 24 points higher than the five-year average. Thirty-seven percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Seventy-six percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition, this is 1 percentage points higher than the previous week. Ninety-nine percent of the winter wheat is now ripe, which is 13 points higher than the 5-year average. Farmers were very busy harvesting winter wheat last week, as 82 percent of the wheat has been harvested. This is 36 percentage points higher than the previous week, and 15 points higher than this time last year and 28 points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety-seven percent of the barley has been harvested. This is 5 percentage points higher than this time last year and 6 points higher than the 5-year average. Forty-seven percent of the alfalfa standing is in good or excellent condition. Forty-eight percent of timothy hay standing is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-eight percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 81 percent of the second cutting and 13 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa have been completed. Fourteen percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions last week did not improve from the previous week. Most fields are in desperate need of a good rain. Some farmers have had to begin hauling water to their livestock. Because

many livestock owners have been supplementing their livestock's diet, they are beginning to worry about the amount of forage stocks they'll have available for the winter season. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 24%, poor 38%, fair 20%, good 15%, and excellent 3%.

**U.S. as of July 8, 2007:** Hot, dry weather continued in the West, adding to the stress of non-irrigated summer crops, while active wild fires threatened areas in Utah, Nevada, and California. Irrigation water supplies remained an issue as demand continued and temperatures soared. Farther east, in the Great Plains, dryness became more of a concern for spring wheat and summer crop development, additional rain fell in the eastern portions of the central and southern Great Plains. The additional rainfall continued to limit winter wheat harvest and caused flooding in some areas. Flooding rains also continued along the western Gulf Coast continuing to stall field activities. Precipitation continued eastward into the lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast benefiting summer crops and pastures. In the Southeast, the showers were more scattered with near normal temperatures. Elsewhere east of the Mississippi River, temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal with significant precipitation mostly confined to the Ohio Valley and southern portions of the Northeast.

**Corn:** Corn at or beyond the silking stage increased 19 percentage points during the week to 32 percent. This is 11 points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of average. In the Corn Belt, mostly favorable conditions allowed the crop to rapidly develop with 36 percent of Illinois' crop entering the silking stage during the week. Nearly a quarter or more of the crop also entered the silking stage in Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Seventy percent of the crop is rated in good or excellent condition compared with 73 percent last week.

**Soybeans:** Forty percent of the crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 4 points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty percent or more of the crop entered the blooming stage in the central and western Corn Belt, with progress well ahead of normal. In the Delta, showers received during the week were beneficial to blooming soybeans. Nationwide, 65 percent of the crop is rated in good or excellent condition, down 3 points from last week.

**Winter Wheat:** Producers had harvested 58 percent of the crop, 12 points behind last year and 7 points behind average. Progress in the parts of the central and southern Great Plains continued at a slow pace due to the excessively wet field conditions and additional rain. Harvest rapidly advanced in Ohio, where producers reaped 70 percent or their acreage during the week under mostly favorable conditions.

# Weather Data For Week Ending July 15, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 15, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	92	56	74	4	0.28	2	6.32	-6.15	30	1,275	191	146
Franklin	93	50	71	1	1.23	3	11.14	-3.27	42	1,225	164	83
Meadville	90	52	72	4	0.54	3	7.59	-6.21	43	1,251	126	141
Mercer	92	50	70	0	0.98	2	11.84	-2.07	41	1,186	157	58
Springboro	93	49	71	0	0.58	3	9.61	-2.71	50	1,066	203	7
Warren	93	48	69	-1	0.89	3	10.57	-3.90	39	1,071	154	40
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	88	39	66	1	1.64	4	9.78	-4.92	46	846	44	62
Emporium	93	52	71	5	0.43	3	14.11	-0.71	43	1,113	68	134
Kane	90	41	63	-3	0.74	3	12.50	-2.26	42	809	41	56
Laporte	89	51	71	1	0.36	1	10.43	-3.42	46	1,018	150	24
Lock Haven	98	54	74	4	0.45	1	7.95	-5.47	31	1,352	185	137
Port Allegany	90	46	67	2	1.07	3	10.65	-3.59	41	918	69	68
Renovo	95	53	73	3	0.11	3	9.97	-3.45	35	1,298	185	97
Ridgway	90	45	66	-1	0.71	3	11.65	-3.17	43	929	68	56
Stevenson Dam	93	53	71	5	0.37	3	8.92	-5.90	35	1,161	68	144
Towanda	96	49	72	2	0.07	2	7.69	-3.78	42	1,102	154	80
Wellsboro	89	45	67	2	0.74	3	11.77	0.22	39	936	49	93
Williamsport	99	55	76	5	0.12	1	6.90	-6.53	35	1,493	239	192
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	90	52	70	3	0.58	3	12.86	0.00	40	1,026	81	110
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	54	74	2	0.11	2	9.63	-2.89	38	1,319	208	121
Susquehanna	92	52	71	5	0.50	3	13.28	-0.45	43	1,073	81	123
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	90	50	69	-2	0.70	2	8.72	-4.96	37	1,208	181	33
New Castle	96	52	73	4	0.05	2	8.26	-4.35	37	1,324	193	99
Slippery Rock	91	51	70	2	0.13	2	12.18	-1.21	41	1,286	139	117
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	89	51	71	-2	0.39	2	10.03	-2.58	37	1,314	208	73
DuBois	89	47	69	1	0.41	2	12.15	-1.82	46	1,160	136	80
Lewistown	93	54	72	-1	0.03	1	11.41	-2.04	37	1,382	267	50
Middletown	94	58	77	2	0.26	1	10.04	-3.11	30	1,689	379	157
Prince Gallitzi	93	46	69	2	0.25	1	9.30	-6.48	36	1,072	99	71
Selinsgrove	96	53	74	3	0.00	0	9.95	-3.56	31	1,338	228	109
State College	92	54	73	3	1.09	1	9.53	-2.89	35	1,413	207	139
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	95	56	75	1	0.52	2	15.11	1.69	40	1,451	311	85
Lehighton	92	56	74	0	0.23	1	12.52	-0.95	40	1,304	274	21
Matamoras	94	53	72	1	0.43	2	13.01	-1.22	38	1,143	202	29
Mt_Pocono	88	52	71	5	0.12	2	12.29	-2.59	45	1,045	46	137
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	91	57	73	2	0.72	2	10.62	-2.51	38	1,558	225	169
Derry	90	50	70	0	0.63	2	14.36	1.01	34	1,241	191	48
Myersdale	87	49	65	-6	0.60	2	10.66	-4.05	40	912	175	-84
Mount Pleasant	90	51	70	2	0.51	2	11.70	-3.45	42	1,215	135	82
Pittsburgh Intl	90	54	73	1	0.42	2	10.12	-2.20	36	1,493	256	105
Connellsville	89	54	71	-2	0.74	3	11.82	-2.64	43	1,411	269	52
Waynesburg	91	55	71	0	0.63	1	8.98	-4.33	38	1,299	210	45
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	96	56	75	1	0.41	2	9.50	-2.63	31	1,540	361	64
Everett	88	50	68	-5	0.21	1	9.69	-2.34	38	1,062	200	-50
Hanover	96	54	75	1	0.56	2	8.80	-3.33	30	1,495	361	48
Harrisburg_AP	94	58	76	0	0.18	1	7.96	-5.19	25	1,632	383	120
South Mountain	91	51	70	-2	0.22	1	10.35	-2.26	34	1,185	200	13
York	94	53	74	0	0.06	1	11.20	-2.24	33	1,457	351	38
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	94	60	77	4	0.39	2	16.49	3.43	41	1,488	256	148
Hamburg	94	57	76	5	0.19	1	15.44	-0.39	34	1,537	200	227
West_Chester	96	58	76	2	1.23	2	18.59	3.86	34	1,446	351	18
Lancaster	92	57	74	1	0.23	1	13.05	-0.56	30	1,519	299	127
Neshaminy Falls	93	60	75	2	0.11	2	21.53	6.49	38	1,375	300	36
New Holland	94	60	76	3	0.58	2	15.75	2.14	35	1,571	299	139
Philadelphia	96	68	80	5	0.55	1	17.63	4.44	30	1,784	429	166
Philadelphia NE	97	66	81	5	0.28	1	17.28	4.09	36	1,748	429	147
Reading	94	58	76	3	0.22	2	14.27	-0.32	38	1,586	286	184
Valley Forge Na	95	58	77	2	0.37	1	16.62	2.98	40	1,479	407	-3
Willow Grove	94	63	78	5	0.25	2	17.05	2.01	42	1,565	300	154

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)** - Adams County is extremely dry. A very small area received 0.5-1 inch this past week. The same area that received the rain is the area that has been getting moisture all along. The rest of the county is in serious trouble due to lack of moisture. Hot and humid temperatures last week didn't help the crop conditions any.

The corn is tassling and some is only 3 foot tall in some areas of the county where no rainfall has been received. The corn is definitely showing drought stress and may be done for the year even if we could get a little moisture. The area of the county around the following towns of Hampton, East Berlin, New Oxford and Littlestown areas have better looking corn due to the moisture those areas have been receiving. Soybeans are still green and not showing as much drought stress as the corn in the county. Wheat harvest is about complete with good yields and tests being reported in most of the county. Some double cropping of soybeans after wheat occurred but alot of producers did not plant due to lack of rainfall. Oats is maturing and some is starting to be harvested. Hay is still being made but really short and probably no 3rd cutting in a lot of areas of the county. No regrowth on mixed hay is occurring either.

Apples and peaches continue to look good and sizing up and coloring nicely. Tart cherries harvest has been completed this past week. Other fruits seem to be doing ok also. Irrigation is occurring for some crops. Sweet corn is being harvested while others are drying up. Raspberries are done being harvested with an ok crop.

Overall the crops definitely need moisture if they are going to yield anything. Ground is showing cracking due to lack of rainfall in some parts of the county. Hopefully we will get some rain out of forecasted thunderstorms this week.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Very dry this week. Dry humidity and wind were good for hay making, but not good for corn pollination. Corn on slate ground is very poor. Other corn still looking good, but is in need of rain. Beans are blooming and need rain to set the pods. Pasture is short. Peach quality is excellent due to the dry weather. Producers are reporting an excellent crop.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - The crops need a good soaking rain. The only showers we get are very spotty and brief. All crops are showing signs of stress. The corn is curling. There was very little second cutting of hay this week. Producers are taking it off the field in the hope of salvation for a third cutting. Barley and wheat harvest continues.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It's very dry. We need rain very soon to save the corn crop. We received .10 inch of rainfall during the past week.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum** - It's very dry!!

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Some scattered showers this week was enough to help the corn along but not enough do anything for the hay fields. Beans are not taking off like they should and the pasture conditions are very poor. Water is becoming a problem with many farms since most of the streams have dried up. Producers are worried about having adequate forage stockpiled for the winter months since they have been supplementing pastures with stored forages.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield** - High heat and humidity has stressed crops, livestock and farmers. Corn is silking and soybeans are flowering. The first of local sweet corn is now ready. Crop reporting was a primary activity this week. Deer damage and control was a hot topic as well.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor** - Rainfall was very short last week. We received 1.4 inches in June and .4 inches in July. Rain seems to go north or south of upper Northumberland County. I have never seen the ground as dry as it is now. Japanese beetles are very numerous. They have devastated a weeping cherry tree and surrounded rose bushes in 2 days.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)** - Some 2nd cutting hay harvested this week. Not much to harvest. Corn is looking good. Some rain received this week but much more needed.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The crops are continuing to go backwards. No rain, high temperatures and strong winds were the commonplace for the week. If significant rainfall doesn't arrive soon, there won't be any corn or soybeans to harvest this fall. Harvesting wheat, baling straw, and making hay were the main activities for the week.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Still very dry here. First corn pushing tassles this past week. Calling for thunderstorms. Hopefully they will come about.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump** - Welcomed rains at the end of the week should improve field conditions.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - Another cold front's passage set off scattered thunderstorms and enough rainfall to keep crops looking very good. Wheat harvest has started and corn is beginning to pollinate.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 15, 2007**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	19	33	24
Corn, dough	5	0	2
Corn average height, inches	59	69	55
Barley, harvested	97	92	91
Wheat, ripe	99	97	86
Wheat, harvested	82	67	54
Oats, heading or headed	95	95	93
Oats, turning yellow	68	43	44
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	81	57	57
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	13	6	10
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	14	12	14
Peaches, harvested	9	10	11

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 15, 2007**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	12	8	24	42	14
Wheat	0	2	22	71	5
Oats	1	23	39	37	0
Soybeans	2	11	39	38	10
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	3	9	41	41	6
Timothy clover stand	2	16	34	43	5
Quality of hay made	3	7	12	52	26
Pasture	24	38	20	15	3
Peaches	0	0	1	51	48
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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